Attorney Docket No. 12713.01

Confirmation No. 8675

Application No.:10/764,445
Art Unit: 3643

**IN THE SPECIFICATION** 

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 8, with the following amended paragraph:

Attention is first directed to [[Fig 1.]] Figs. 1-4, wherein the oxygenator vessel of the present

invention is generally indicated at 10. As illustrated, oxygenator vessel 10 has [[walls]] a front wall

10a, a top wall 10b, a rear wall 10e, side walls 10d and 10d' and a bottom panel 10c that enclose an

inner chamber 11. As best shown in Figs. 3 and 4, the front wall includes a first opening 17 and a

second opening 19. The top wall 10b includes a third opening 21 and a fourth opening 23, and the rear

wall 10e includes a fifth opening 31. Vessel 10 is positioned in a live well tank 12. Tank 12 is filled

with water W, which water supports live aquatic organisms 14. Filter-screen First filter screen 16 is

positioned over the first opening 17 and second filter screen 18 is positioned over the second opening

19 in the front wall 10a of vessel 10, whose functions will be explained below, are disposed on the

front wall 10a of vessel 10. A bleed/feed valve 20 (Fig. 5) disposed through opening 21 and

overflow/fill tube 22 disposed through opening 23 in the top wall 10b communicate with the inner

chamber of vessel 10 through the top wall 10b.

2

Art Unit: 3643 Confirmation No. 8675

Please replace the paragraph bridging pages 5 and 6 with the following amended paragraph:

As best seen in Figs. 2 and 3, the inner chamber of vessel 10 contains a water pump 24 and

a L-shaped water return pipe 26 positioned near the bottom of the vessel and communicating through

filter[[-]]screen 16 and filter screen 18 with the interior of tank 12. The screens are fabricated from

stainless steel and will prevent organisms from entering the pump and chamber 11. Water return pipe

26 has a lower end 26a opening into inner chamber 11. Tube 22 also has a lower end 22a opening

into inner chamber 11. Ends 26a and 22a are spaced approximately the same distance from the

bottom of the chamber. Filter[[-]]screen 16 is disposed at the pump's entrance. Waterproof electric

wires 28 are connected to pump 24 and extend through a watertight fitting 30 (Fig. 6), which fitting is

disposed within the fifth opening 31 located in the rear wall 10e of vessel 10. Wires 28 are connected

to an electric source (not shown) for providing electric power to the pump. A timer 32 may be

interposed to provide a programmable timing function for the pump. Pump 24 has a U-shaped

discharge pipe 34 connected thereto. The U-shaped discharge pipe 34 has one end 33 connected

to pump 24, a bend section 35 disposed above the pump and an open end 37 extending toward the

bottom of vessel 10. Venturi openings 36, whose functions are explained below, are disposed through

the bend section of pipe 34 at the top thereof.

3

Application No.:10/764,445

Art Unit: 3643

Please replace the paragraph bridging pages 6 and 7 with the following amended paragraph:

In use, the vessel 10 is positioned in tank 12 or the like, which tank is filled with suitable water.

Water rising in tank 12 will flow through return pipe 26 into the inner chamber defined by the walls of

vessel 10 until the water reaches the lower end 26a of water return pipe 26. Atmospheric air, which

is trapped in chamber 11 above lower end 26a, is removed via bleed/feed valve 20 while continuing

to add water to tank 12. Chamber 11 is now filled with gaseous oxygen through valve 20 from a

compressed oxygen tank <u>50</u>. Alternatively, the oxygen may be fed through tube <u>22</u> with the use of

suitable fittings. Compressed oxygen entering chamber 11 will cause water to be displaced and flow

from chamber 11 through pipe 26 into tank 12. When the oxygen/water contact level is depressed to

lower end 26a and/or lower end 22a, oxygen will escape from chamber 11 to avoid over

pressurization. Bubbles will indicate that tank 11 is now full. There will remain a level of water in

chamber 11 to lower end 26a and/or 22a.

4